

4. (amended once) A nucleic acid sequence according to [any one of claims 1, 2 or 3] claim 1 comprising a 5' and/or a 3' untranslated region.

A1  
5. (amended once) A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence NSKH at about residue 697.

A2  
8. (amended once) A sequence according to claim 6 [or 7], comprising a 5'and/or 3'untranslated region.

A3  
11. (amended once) A replicable nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims].

14. (amended once) A polypeptide according to claim 12 [or 13], having the amino acid sequence NSKH at about position 697.

A4  
15. (amended once) A method of modifying starch *in vitro*, the method comprising treating starch to be modified under suitable conditions with an effective amount of a polypeptide according to claim 12 [any one of claims 12, 13 or 14].

A5  
18. (amended once) A method according to claim 16 [or 17], comprising the introduction of one or more further nucleic acid sequences, operably linked in the sense or anti-sense orientation to a suitable promoter active in the host cell, and causing transcription of the one or more further nucleic acid sequences, said transcripts and/or translation products thereof being sufficient to interfere with the expression of homologous gene(s) present in the host cell.

A6  
20. (amended once) A method according to claim 18 [or 19], wherein the further nucleic acid sequence comprises at least part of an SBE I gene.

A7  
22. (amended once) A method according to claim 16 [any one of claims 16 - 21], wherein the host cell is selected from one of the following: cassava, banana, potato, pea, tomato, maize, wheat, barley, oat, sweet potato or rice.

23. (amended once) A method according to claim 16 [any one of claims 16-22], wherein the altered host cell gives rise to starch having different properties compared to starch from an unaltered cell.

24. (amended once) A method according to claim 16 [any one of claims 16-23], further comprising the step of growing the altered host cell into a plant or plantlet.

28. (amended once) Starch obtainable from an altered plant according to claim 26 [or 27], having altered properties compared to starch extracted from an equivalent but unaltered plant.

29. (amended once) Starch obtained from an altered plant according to claim 26 [or 27], having altered properties compared to starch extracted from an equivalent but unaltered plant.

30. (amended once) Starch according to claim 28 [or 29] obtained from an altered plant selected from the group consisting of:- cassava, banana, potato, pea, tomato, maize, wheat, barley, oat, sweet potato and rice plants.

31. (amended once) Starch according to claim 28 [any one of claims 28, 29 or 30], having increased amylose content compared to starch extracted from an equivalent but unaltered plant.

NE Cancel claims 32-35.

Add new claim ~~36~~<sup>32</sup> to read:

-- ~~32 36~~. A replicable nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 6 [any one of the preceding claims]. --

### STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 were internationally filed in PCT/GB97/03032.

Claims 4-5, 8, 11, 14-15, 18, 20, 22-24, and 28-31 were amended.

Claims 32-35 have been canceled.

Claim 36 has been added.

Claims 1-31 and 36 are presented for consideration.

### REMARKS

Claims 4-5, 8, 11, 14-15, 18, 20, 22-24, and 28-31 were amended to remove multiple dependencies.

Claims 32-35 have been canceled as not in conformance with standard US patent practice.

Claim 36 has been added based on original claim 11. No new matter has been added.